3. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Master General of Ordnance was constituted to evaluate the Technical Proposal of the Vendors. The Committee after evaluating the Technical proposal has submitted its report to the Ministry of Defence on 3.7.2002.

Shifting of Air Force Engineering College, Kanpur

767. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Defence had laid the foundation stone in 1977 for setting up the Air Force Engineering College at Kanpur after taking into consideration its proximity with the Base Repair Depots. Equipment Depot and other maintenance facilities for supporting the training;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to shift this College to some other location; and

(c) if so, the reasons for shifting of the location and the delay to accord Government approval for the setting up of this College at Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The foundation stone was laid by the then Minister for Defence in 1997 and not in 1977.

(b) and (c) The case is being reviewed at present. A decision will be taken in the matter after taking into account all the relevant factors, keeping in view the national interest. However, it is not possible to lay down any time limit for this purpose.

Postponement of elections of Cantonment Boards due to proposed amendment in the Act

768. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elections to the 62 Cantonment Boards of the country have been postponed in order to carry out amendments in the Cantonment Board Act;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed and by when the amending Bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament;

(c) what is the sanctity of withholding elections of Cantonment Boards without amending the relevant law which is quite a lengthy process; and